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Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities

Statement submitted by World Family Organization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2005/100.

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Statement

Participants representing Governments, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), experts and scholars from all over the world who are concerned with family and development issues have been gathered in Sanya, China, from 6 to 9 December 2004 to attend the World Family Summit, and to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the International Year of the Family. After three days of deliberations, participants adopted the Sanya Declaration in the spirit of human civilization, human rights, and sustainable development in order to promote the family focused approached and support families to achieve the MDGs. On the basis of the consensus reached, participants pledged to implement the Declaration through concerted efforts.

Sanya declaration

We participants of the World Family Summit assembled in Sanya, People's Republic of China, from 6 to 9 December, 2004:

Noting with satisfaction that Celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family in this World Family Summit is the biggest partnership towards bringing the present and the future world with more peace, security, justice, tolerance, solidarity, prosperity by mobilizing and promoting the basic unit of society – the Family,

Underlining the tremendous preparatory work for the Summit since 2001 including the regional and national meetings at the initiative of the World Family Organization in cooperation with the United Nations,

Highlighting the great efforts of the Peoples' Republic of China Government and their commitment for a successful Summit and concrete outcome for family development,

Emphasizing that the discussions and the deliberations of the Summit were under a comprehensive and integrated approach to development, drawing from all the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the UN Summits and Conferences of the 90's and the follow-up process of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

Appreciating that the interaction, discourse and partnership among all stakeholders – Governments, Local authorities, NGOs, Civil Society Organizations, Parliamentarians, Academia, Business Community and Families – led to reaffirming the political will to strengthen family contribution in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing that this Celebration constituted an important opportunity to reinforce and enhance the effectiveness of efforts at all levels to carry out specific family related programmes, to generate new activities and to improve the cooperation among all actors of society in support of families,

Encouraging all stakeholders to make every possible effort to achieve the objectives of the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, to integrate a family perspective in planning and implementation processes within participatory governance, and to place family perspectives in the International Agenda,

Proclaim the following:

Being in full agreement of the above proclaimed, we participants of the World Family Summit commit ourselves to disseminate and call upon Governments, Civil Society, and other institutions to increase efforts to:

1. Include family perspectives in the international agenda and as priority when developing national strategies, formulating economic, social and environmental policies and programs, promote partnership between families and communities, comply with the principles of good governance and rule by law and render full support to families and development.

2. Urge governments of all countries to:

   a. Act upon their commitments to achieve the MDGs and the goals and objectives of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Program of Action, and promote the integration of those goals in policies and development programmes;

   b. Empower families and their members, in particular women and girls, and place them in the center of poverty-reduction policies;

   c. Develop poverty-reduction policies that assist families, especially women-headed households and vulnerable families;

   d. Promote universal access to education for all family members, especially for women and girls, achieve universal access to primary education, and prevent children from dropping out of school;

   e. Ensure equal rights among all family members with special attention to the rights of women and girls;

   f. Ensure women's access to economic resources and ensure their right to inheritance;

   g. Support family policies that foster the participation of men in sharing responsibilities of household chores, conciliate between professional and family life, and empower women to participate in public political, economical, and social life, and free them from neglect, exploitation, abuse and violence;

   h. Ensure paid maternity leave, paid child-rearing leave, breastfeeding and availability of nurseries and encourage men to take responsibility in raising children;

   i. Strengthen policies to reduce maternal and infant mortality and morbidity;

   j. Empower youth and adults to participate in family and development life,

   k. Encourage the participation of adolescents in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of adolescent programs, in particular health programmes that include health education focusing on sexual and reproductive health;

   l. Support research on population aging and strengthen policy systems so as to create a positive and healthy living environment for the elderly;

   m. Ensure that all families have access to housing.

3. Enhance political commitment and ensure sufficient resources to prevent HIV/AIDS and promote care as well as support families to better care for their members who are infected with HIV/AIDS, including protecting them from discrimination and stigma. Encourage people living with HIV/AIDS and their relatives to combat ignorance and panic; and take action to integrate HIV/AIDS prevention and care into reproductive health services.

4. Support the role of families in environmental protection, promote the adoption of sustainable production and consumption patterns and enable all family members to enjoy a life that is environment friendly and harmonious with nature.

5. Promote dialogue, communication, and cooperation among different cultures, based on respect, tolerance, understanding and trust. Promote social harmony and integration, through effective public policies involving communities and families.

6. Promote partnership initiatives, projects/programmes between governments, the United Nations, NGOs, Academia, Local Authorities, Parliamentarians, and Business Community on comprehensive integrated and cross-sector programmes for family poverty alleviation and sustainable development, and ensure means to effectively and efficiently implement them.

At the same time, we, the participants, call upon

7. Members of the international community, governments of different countries, and civil society organizations to strengthen partnership with programs that focus on the family;

8. Reaffirm support to the ICPD and MDGs commitments related to family perspectives, recognizing the role of families as essential in development efforts;

9. The inclusion of family perspectives into the five-year Review of the UN MDGs;

10. Governments of all countries, to reinforce their political commitments towards implementation of family-focused policies and programmes, welcome the civil society organizations and families in general to participate in the formulation and implementation of those policies and programmes.

We, the participants, reiterate that we will always bear in mind our responsibility to the family, improve well-being of the family and its members, enable families to achieve their optimal aspirations, promote interaction between the family and development and exert concerted efforts towards the MDGs.